

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/077,593

Examiner

John B. Vigushin

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 23 June 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9-31.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ heretc or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 1203.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 23, 2004 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-7, 9-31 have been allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to Claims 16-22, patentability resides in *sockets having rigid electromagnetic couplers*, in combination with the other limitations of base Claim 16.

As to Claims 21-22, patentability resides in *sockets having rigid electromagnetic couplers*, in combination with the other limitations of base Claim 21.

As to Claims 23-24, patentability resides in *coupling, at locations along the bus, the digital signals to sockets through rigid electromagnetic couplers*, in combination with the other limitations of base Claim 23.

As to independent Claims 1, 25 and 27, the reasons for their patentability have been previously made of record by the Examiner and are summarized on p.7 of Applicant's above-cited Amendment entered with the instant RCE filed on June 23, 2004.

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4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
5. Claims 1-7 and 9-31 of the instant allowed Application will be renumbered as Claims 1-30, respectively, for publication in the issued patent.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Kwa (US 5,958,030) discloses electromagnetic couplers (Fig. 1c) on each drop-insert-multiplexer (DIM) 54a-g on daughter boards 50a-g for wireless communication between the daughterboards 50a-g (col.4: 62-col.5: 24; col.5: 52-63). Kwa also discloses that each of the daughterboards 50a-g has electromagnetic backplane couplers 120 and 122 (Fig. 6) for transmitting and receiving signals to/from the backplane through hard-wiring on the daughterboards to the connector pins 126, 126', and through the connector pins to the backplane wiring 132, 132' so that the first and last boards, which cannot wirelessly communicate with each other, can communicate with each other through the wiring and thus maintain the closed communications loop comprising boards 50a-g (Figs. 6 and 7; col.5: 64-col.6: 24). Kwa **does not teach**: 1) a connector 128 configured for insertion and removal of a digital device, said connector 128 comprising a rigid coupling element, and an electromagnetic

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coupler being on a surface of the rigid coupling element (Claim 1); 2) sockets having rigid electromagnetic couplers (Claim 21); and 3) at locations along the bus 132, 132' on backplane 130 (Fig. 7), coupling the digital signals to sockets 128 through rigid electromagnetic couplers, within the sockets conducting the digital signals to contacts 126, 126' and from the contacts 126, 126' to boards 50a-g plugged into sockets 128 (Claim 23).

b) Kwong et al. (US 6,399,898 B1) discloses a rigid electromagnetic coupler 106b (Figs. 2, 2A and 2B; col.4: 20-col.5: 34) but does not teach socket connectors, and furthermore, teaches away from the use of socket connectors (col.1: 19-47; col.6: 38-53).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Vigushin whose telephone number is 571-272-1936. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM Mo-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John B. Vigushin
Primary Examiner
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jbv
August 06, 2004